What is claimed is:

1. A process apparatus, comprising:

    a storage unit storing information about a discussion at an electronic conference; and

    a judgment unit calculating an index relating to an amount of the discussion and judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.

2. The process apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

    a notification unit notifying participants of the electronic conference of a holding of the face-to-face conference if said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.

3. The process apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising

    a reservation unit making reservations for facilities needed to hold the face-to-face conference if said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference,

    said notification unit notifies expected participants of information about reserved facilities.

4. The process apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
    said reservation unit makes reservations for
transportation needed for the expected participants to
participate at the face-to-face conference; and
    said notification unit notifies the expected
participants   of   information   about   reserved
transportation.

5. The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
    said judgment unit uses a number of speakers in
the discussion as the index, and if the number of speakers
exceeds a specific value, said judgment unit determines
to hold the face-to-face conference.

6. The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
    said judgment unit uses a number of utterances in
the discussion as the index, and if the number of
utterances exceeds a specific value, said judgment unit
determines   to   hold   the   face-to-face   conference.

7. The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
    said storage unit stores information about the
discussion in a tree structure; and
    said judgment unit uses a depth of the tree
structure as the index, and if the depth of the tree

structure exceeds a specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.

8. The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judgment unit uses a data amount of the information about the discussion as the index, and if the data amount exceeds a specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.

9. A process apparatus, comprising:

a storage unit storing information about a discussion at an electronic conference; and

a judgment unit calculating an index relating to a possibility of the discussion diverging and judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.

10. A process apparatus for executing a process of an asynchronous electronic conference among a plurality of areas in a distributed environment, comprising:

a communications unit transmitting information about a discussion at the electronic conference between areas;

a storage unit storing the information about the discussion; and

a judgment unit judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on an amount of the discussion.

5   11. A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program enabling a computer to execute a process, said process comprising;

calculating an index relating to an amount of a discussion at an electronic conference; and

10   judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.

12. A process method comprising;

recording information about a discussion at an

15   electronic conference;

calculating an index relating to an amount of the discussion; and

judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.

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13. A process apparatus, comprising:

storage means for storing information about a discussion at an electronic conference; and

judgment means for calculating an index relating

25   to an amount of the discussion and judging whether to

hold a face-to-face conference based on the index.